APPENDIX - IV

MAHARSHI DAYANAND SARASWATI UNIVERSITY, AJMER

Format for Outline of Proposed Research work

(to be supplied in Six copies)

1. Nameof Scholar (In English) Ms. Sumita Gurnani

   (In Hindi) सुमिता गुरनानी

2. Title of the Research Work Role of Self Help promoting and Micro Finance Institutions in Women Empowerment through NABARD in Rajasthan (with Special Reference to Ajmer district - (An Analytical Study)

   (In English)

   (In Hindi) राजस्थान में नाबार्ड द्वारा महिला सशक्तिकरण में स्वयं सहायता समूह एवं सूक्ष्म वित्त संस्थानों की भूमिका (अजमेर के विशेष संदर्भ में) - एक विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन

3. Location

   a. Institution/Department where the work is to be done

   b. Geographical area of Investigation, if any.

4. Introduction Importance of Proposed Investigation, Objectives.
5. Review (Work already done on the subject of proposed Research Study.)
6. Research Gaps identified in the proposed field of investigation. (Based on the review)
7. Major Hypothesis, if any
8. Research Methodology.
9. List of References cited.

Sumita

Signature of the Candidate with date

Outline Approved.

Name and Signature of supervisor with date & seal.

(Dr. R K Gola)
Guest Faculty
MDS University, Ajmer

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1. Name of Scholar (In English) *Ms. Sumita Gurnani*

(In Hindi) सुमिता गुरनानी

2. Title of the Research Work:

(In English) ***Role of Self Help Promoting and Micro Finance Institutions in Women Empowerment through NABARD in Rajasthan (With Special Reference to Ajmer District)- An Analytical Study***

(In Hindi) राष्ट्रीय बैंक कृषि एवं ग्रामीण विकास के माध्यम से, स्वयं सहायता प्रोत्साहन एवं सूक्ष्म वित्त संस्थानों की महिला सशक्तिकरण में भूमिका राजस्थान में (अजमेर के विशेष सन्दर्भ में) – एक विश्लेषणात्मक अध्ययन

Title of Research work-

"Role of Self Help Promoting and Micro Finance Institutions in Women Empowerment through NABARD in Rajasthan (with Special Reference to Ajmer district)" An Analytical Study

3) Location

A) Department of Commerce, M.D.S university, Ajmer

b)Geographical area of investigation- Ajmer district.

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4) INTRODUCTION IMPORTANCE OF PROPOSED RESEARCH WORK

The proposed research work is targeted towards the most underprivileged population in the India, "the women", and it's all about the women empowerment. Women in India is a homemaker, she takes care of house, family and children's, as a daily routine work. Nowadays, women's are equally working in the fields also to earn bread and butter for their family. The study is concentrated upon the women of Ajmer district who are below the poverty line and struggling to survive, they are doing very small scale business for doing that they are lending money from the local lender at very high interest rate, as most of them are illiterate or semi –literate therefore they are somewhat bound to be in this circle.

According to a report published Rajasthan Microfinance Report, 2011 the Average household income in rural Rajasthan is Rs.76, 764. As per NCAER, 2007, saving rate in rural India is 22%. Number of households in Rajasthan as of March 2011 can be estimated at 92 lakhs using Census 2011 rural population of 5.15 crores and average strength of household to be 5.6. The credit demand of poor can be classified into three categories **Credit needed as working capital, Credit needed to meet household consumption; Credit needed to finance life events like marriages, house construction, serious health emergencies etc.** Rural poor depend on money lenders and friends/relatives for credit. Due to numerous reasons, few of them are illiteracy, semi – literacy, lack of know- how for bank procedure etc. they have low access to formal sources of credit. The credit from informal sources comes at very high cost i.e. at 24% to 60% annual interest.

Women's empowerment: The UN (2001, as cited in **Kabeer**, 2012, p.7) defined the concept in terms of five components: 'women's sense of self-worth; their right to have and determine choices; their right to have access to opportunities and

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resources; their right to have the power to control their own lives, both within and outside the home; and their ability to influence the direction of social change to create a more just social and economic order, nationally and internationally ".

Maximum women who are spread in Rajasthan and different blocks of Ajmer district belong to the below poverty line category. These women are from different caste groups such as scheduled caste (SC), scheduled tribes (ST) and other backward caste (OBC) etc. Most of them are illiterate or semi-literate. Very few of them have their own economic assets for income generation purpose. If they need money, they cannot go to a bank to get loan, so often their only choice is to get a loan from a local money lender, who usually charges high interest rates, sometime they are not able to repay back their loan on time and the individual/ family gets into vicious circle of poverty and sometimes leads to suicide. The situation is especially worst for women, because they have often less or no economic and social status.

There are various government schemes under which these people can be supported, these women can be organised into self-help groups through NGOs (Self Help group promoting institutions). The goal of this programme is to promote saving and credit activities and to promote micro enterprise development. This can lead to a strong and permanent improvement of their socio- economic conditions in a number of ways.

With the help of financial grant and assistance provided by NABARD, these NGOs (SHPI) are able to run different training programmes and workshops for women Self Help Groups so that they are able to generate income for their families and children and raise their economic status and standard of living.

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SHG's disburses micro credit to the rural women for the purpose of making them enterprising women and encouraging them to enter into entrepreneurial activities. Credit needs of the rural and urban poor women are fulfilled totally through SHG's. SHG's enhance equality of status of women as participation, decision makers and beneficiaries in the democratic, economic, social and cultural spheres of life.

The advantage of SHG's concept will help to advance the economic development of women and create facilitating environment for their social transformation in the lift of gender discrimination in work and the household. The researcher is trying to put some light in this proposed research work on women empowerment and how the SHGs and NABDARD is helping the women's of Ajmer district to uplift their social and financial structure for a better life style and up to what extent they are successful. Since the study focused on understanding how women perceive their own empowerment, then such findings will be helpful to the policy makers in drawing recommendations on the different ways of measuring empowerment especially at the household level.

Objectives

1. To study the kind of support the SHPI's are getting through NABARD for the formation of SHG's.

2. To what extent women SHG's are able to prevent themselves from the malicious circle of money landers.

3. To understand Government role towards poverty alleviation, rural development and women empowerment.

4. To examine the different ways of micro finance is given to women SHG's

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through NABARD.

5. To what extent NABARD through its scheme of WSHG's and microfinance able to improve women status in terms of Income, Food, health and hygiene, housing and land and social status.

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5) Review of Literature

There are many qualified researchers from the world and well as in India already worked on the topic of micro-finance and women empowerment. In this section, the researchers is going to get the various view and reviews of different researchers on the above mentioned topic so that in the light of the work already done and the areas in which the research work is required due to the limitations of researchers or due to limitation of geographical area or any reasons can be studied and those research gaps can be fulfilled by the current research.

This study is informed by the literature surrounding **Micro Finance**, **Women Empowerment**, and **Self-Help Groups**. In this research the researcher is going to review current research surrounding these three topics majorly and other topics related to the research.

According to **Linda Mayoux** 2002, if Micro finance programmes promote women empowerment, there is a need for more add-on to programmes for financial sustainability or household poverty alleviation. It also requires the participation of men in the process of change therefore it will require changes in the organisational culture and structure otherwise, Micro Finance will fail to realise full potential as a part of holistic agenda for women's empowerment. This paper also point out that connecting empowerment approach with micro-finance will involve a significant change in attitude, changes in working practices and challenging vested interests. On the basis of extensive consultation with women, research on women's needs, strategies and constraints and a process of negotiation between women and development agencies, flexibility to women's needs and deciding the best ways of combining empowerment and sustainability objectives can only done.

Microfinance is an economic initiative that **Dr. Mohammed Yunus** pioneered in Bangladesh in the 1970"s (**Adams & Raymond**, 2008) as a means to provide

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financial services, particularly credit, to people who have little or no guaranteed source of income. Yunus devised a group-based monetary lending system that relies heavily on social collateral and community-level social dynamics. The success of Yunus" microfinance institution, Grameen Bank, generated global interest in microfinance as an effective poverty-alleviation strategy. In the three decades since its inception, microfinance has been successful in stimulating economic activity to improve the living standards of poor citizens. This has contributed to its rapid growth in the field of international development.

According to **Asiama et al** 2007, Micro finance encompasses the provision of financial services and the management of small amount of money through a range of products and a system of intermediary functions that are targeted at low income clients. It includes loans, savings, insurance, transfer services and other financial products and services. It thus consists primarily of providing financial services, including savings, microcredit, micro-insurance, micro-leasing and transfers in relatively small transactions designed to be accessible to micro enterprises and low income households.

According to **Moyo (2009)** there are currently at least 43 countries across 5 continents that are providing millions of poor people with financial services. Microfinance is now considered to be a key factor in the attempt to reach the United Nations Millennium Development Goal to reduce poverty by 50% by 2015 (United Nations, 2008).

Prof. Himanshu. D. Tiwari study is based on primary as well as secondary data. The objectives taken in his paper were through which SHG model, employment is spread in informal sector. To study how it has reduced the dependency on money lenders and the benefit derived from the formation of SHGs and problem faced by them.

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The conclusions of his study were that forming SHG has helped in to women empowerment and poverty alleviation and increased understanding and tolerance towards the members of other religions and has also suggested that support to be taken from Government, NGO and banks to promote SHGs movement and women members should be encouraged to be participated in entrepreneurial activity and proper training should be provided to the members of business tricks to gain profit out of it.

According to **S.Porkodi; Dr. D. Aravazhi** "Financial inclusion may be defined as the process of ensuring access to financial services and timely and adequate credit where needed by vulnerable groups such as weaker sections and low income groups at an affordable cost." This paper is focused to research the role of Micro Finance in the empowerment of people and the realisation of financial inclusion in India. Micro finance institutions has ample of opportunities due to increasing demand for rural finance and the inadequacies of formal sources. NGOs have also played important role in linking SHGs with banks so there is a need to motivate NGOs to diversify into more backward areas.

Their paper's main focus is to study the importance of financial inclusion in Indian financial system as well as the role of banking system in extending banking services for financial inclusion. What are the different approaches of financial inclusion? To know the achievements and problems of SHG micro finance in including the excluded section of the society and to suggest some policy prescriptions. It also point out that the linking SHG with SHLP (policy of NABARD 1992) is one of the way to financial inclusion.

According to **Sri. Diganta Kumar & Das Sri. Dipul Boruah** for the socio-economic development, financial requirement is one of the basic need of poor people therefore keeping this in mind this paper research on role of micro finance and Self Help Groups for the socio-economic development of poor people in

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Lakhimpur and Dhemaji district of Assam. Their study was based on primary data that is through questionnaire, survey, interview and personal observation as well as on secondary data that is information collected from NGOs, journals etc. From ***their study it has been found that after joining the SHGs the poor people particularly the women have not only increase their income but also improve their living standard by performing various economic activities independently.*** The result of the data analysis revealed that the SHGs have been playing an important role in social-economic development and performing their savings and credit functions with the help of Rural Financial Institutions.

To summarize the condition of women, **Liz McKenzie** (1993 as cited in Lakwo, 2006, p.3) asserted that "women account for more than 50% of the world's population; they do perform 67% of the world's working hours, are 60% of the world's labour force, but only earn 10% of the world's income and own less than 1% of the world's resources" because of this, microfinance programs target women since they are the most vulnerable in the society.

Empowerment is a multilevel construct (**Varekamp** et al., 2009) that is defined in various ways, and is often related to the concepts of power (**Ahnby & Henning**, 2009), democracy (Renblad, 2003), autonomy (**Varekamp** et al.), authority and responsibility (**Mathieu, Gilson & Ruddy**, 2006), command over own rights (**Bankoff**, 2001), social justice (Planas & Civil, 2009), and mobilization of vulnerable groups (**Ahnby & Henning**). As **Rappaport** (1984) observed, empowerment is most often defined in its antonymic form, as evidenced by its common descriptors; powerlessness (**Rappaport**), alienation (**Wahlin, Ek, & Idvall**, 2006), and lack of control (Planas & Civil). Though it lacks a single standard definition, the consensus among scholars is that empowerment operates at the individual, group, and community levels (**Varekemp** et al.).

Tuuli and Rowlinson (2007) assert that "[attaching] only one understanding to the

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empowerment construct will ultimately hinder research and practice" (p. 4).

The few studies that have extended beyond the scope of financial conceptualizations of empowerment (**De Mel, Surest & Woodruff, 2009**) have had contradictory findings. It has been found that microfinance programs are beneficial to women, with positive correlations between participation and empowerment (**Holvoet, 2005**). It has also been found that there is a negative impact of microfinance programs on women, and that they may even be disempowering (Kim et al., 2007). Findings from the studies that show evidence of empowerment potential have reported that female borrowers experienced increased bargaining power in the community and in their families (**Mayoux, 1998**), increased decision-making within the household (**Simanowitz & Walter, 2002**), higher levels of self-confidence (**Hunt & Kasynathan, 2001**), and the ability to influence community-based politics (**Sen, 1999**). Higher levels of self-confidence and other aspects of empowerment are related to the design and implementation of the microfinance program more than to increases in income levels. For example, the women in **Hunt and Kasynathan**"s study valued the knowledge and training that they received from the program more than their ability to contribute financially to the household. In places where women have been excluded from education and other forms of formal training, the MFIs that offer literacy and business training as part of the program help female borrowers to access social spheres that they previously could not access.

According to **World Bank** (2002) "Empowerment refers broadly to the expansion of freedom of choice and action. For poor people, that freedom is severely curtailed by their voicelessness and powerlessness in relation particularly to the state and markets". It brings independence of actions and Freedom of choice in women. World Economic Forum (2005) has defined empowerment as "a mean which provides power of decision and self-reliance to women. It gives them the

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power to protect their property and ideology". They exercised their control over their assets according to their own will and choice. In spite of the fact that women participation is very low in formal sector, only a limited number of countries realized the importance of female in all walks of life. There is still a tendency to see it as a real problem in these countries. Yet, the reality is that no country in the world, no matter how advanced, has achieved true gender equality, as measured by comparable decision-making power, equal opportunity for education and advancement, and equal participation and status in all walks of human endeavour (World Economic Forum, 2005). No society can progress unless women become an equal part in almost all of the national activities. As families grow in size their finance needs increase. Hence burden of family's survival falls on women. Major activities that women adopted till now are related with agriculture and small enterprises development. Nevertheless, efforts are being made to increasing awareness of the need to empower women through measures to increase social, economic and political equity, and broader access to fundamental human rights, improvements in nutrition, basic health and education (World Economic Forum, 2005) moreover, United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in 1984 has emphasized to ensure women's involvement in the main stream activities.

Malcolm Harper paper focuses on different ways in which SHPI (Self-help Promoting Institutions) promote SHGs, to accelerate the efficiency and quality of the SHGs promotion process and to enhance the extent and level of financial service provision to rural people now without access to formal financial services. It also described the various qualities of 'ideal' SHPI. It also tried to focus on the ways through which NABARD encourage SHPI to promote more and better SHGs. In the conclusion, it has been found that NGOs are considered to be the strongest SHPI in five of the eleven features which were identified as qualities of the 'ideal SHPI'. Every year SHGs linked to bank are increasing. NABARD is playing a

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major role in promotion of SHGs through SHPI. As said in the paper "NABARD can be taken to be the 'manufacturer', both through the provision of refinance and the dissemination of a new approach to financial services for the poor, and the banks are the wholesale and retail channels through which the 'product, financial services, must reach its final customers, the rural poor. Refinance is becoming less attractive as interest rates fall, but the marketing task still has to be carried out, regardless of the banks' sources of funds. SHGs have been identified as a new type of sub retailer, through which it is less expensive and more effective to reach the final customer".

SHG- bank linkage model is based on the history that by what circumstances NABARD with RBI approval, the project "SHG bank linkage programme" came into existence. It also found that initially from the fear 1992-99 this programme showed slow progress but then it has been growing rapidly. The positive feature of this programme is "financial inclusion" and it included mostly women.

The positive impact found in this study was: **reduced poverty due to increased income, more access to education, empowered women, reduced child mortality** etc. In this study, a major factor "regional imbalance" due to various reason came into light. In it, NABARD has also introduced a pilot project for formation and linking of joint liability groups. It also focused on promoting SHG bank linkage programme in states where it has been comparatively slow moving so as to open "project offices" in 13 states having highest population.

It stressed on a point that it is a challenge to transfer micro- credit into micro enterprise. It also made the provision in the NABARD Act, 1981 permitting micro financial services to the urban poor.

Dr. P.N. Prasad and Dr. V. Sreedevi's article focused on the ICT offering immense opportunities for social and economic development for the people around the world. ICT has the power of promoting micro enterprise in the poor women.

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The article also discusses the case study on "ICT micro enterprise by SHG of poor women".

Development of ICT offers many new opportunities for women but unless these are supported by deliberate policies to ensure participation, ownership, education and ICT training.

ICT micro enterprise by poor women Self Help Group- the **Kudumbashree** is a project implemented through Government of Kerala and NABARD for eradication of poverty and mainly included women and children belonging to BPL. Application of ICT was first time tested in Kudumbashree project and encouraged poor women to start micro enterprise of ICT and with that they started with their regular income.

A SWOT analysis was conducted for ICT based micro enterprise. Planning and implementation of more micro credit schemes for SHG can contribute to promotion of more micro enterprises thus lead to economic empowerment of the poor women resulting in alleviation of poverty.

Sanjay Kanti Das has made attempt to compare quality and performance of the SHGs and the impact of SHGs on women members in Barak valley of Assam. The quality of SHG is questioned due to fast growing of the SHG bank linkage programme in the state and the factors which are affecting the quality are lack of incentives to NGOs, target approach of the Government in preparing group, lack of proper monitoring, absence of quality enhancement mechanism. In his verdict it was observed that SHGs had positive impact on women members and promoted empowerment in many district of Assam and also had impact on decision making pattern.

Regularity and attendance in meetings were the disciplinary factors observed by the SHGs. The repayment performance of loan is more than 65% and the reason for taking loan were consumption and production. It was also found that SHGs

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were facing the problem of delay in sanctioning of loan by the Government authorities and the bank officials. Apart from this, the problems faced by SHGs were inadequate training and skill development avenues, lack of administrative experience, marketing, basic infrastructure etc.

Sa-Dhan (2003) made a comparative study of assessment tools developed by various organisation viz. NABARD, BASIX, MYRADA, CARE, APAMAS etc. and have identified eight broad thematic areas with various indicators and their relative benchmarks. The study also felt that unless a tool could provide an instant and clear analysis of the state of affairs of SHG, it would not popular in practice. However, the study identifies eight broad major indicators viz. Group constitution, organisational discipline, organizational systems, financial management, credit policy external linkage etc. to access the quality of SHGs.

Some years back, Sa-Dhan has developed a SHG Performance Measurement Tool (Sa-Dhan 2005) based on its applied research with an objective of helping the SHPIs and Banks to understand the SHGs in required detail to assess its performance, including decision making for credit linkage. This tool helps the SHPIs to measure the quality of SHGs and to identify the areas of strengths and weaknesses of SHGs that would in turn help them to design their capacity building initiatives for SHGs in a more focused and cost effective manner. This tool also helps banks to understand and assess SHGs performance in the required detail for credit linkage.

Another recent study **(APMAS 2009)** reported that the SHG programme has resulted in social and economic benefits to a significant percentage of the sample groups. Despite of all round support from the Government of Assam, NABARD, NGOs, RRBs and active participation of primary members, the condition of SHGs in the state is far from satisfaction. The study also reveals that the proliferation of SHG has posed a serious challenge to sustain this movement by maintaining

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quality of SHGs and hence, the quality assessment of SHGs is now being considered as a key concern. The study also articulated some serious challenges like uneven growth of SHGs in different parts and uneven quality of SHGs across the country and issues related to their sustainability.

Singh (2006) conducted study about Peoples Education and Development Organisation's SHGs programme and makes an attempt to evaluate social and economic impact on households of SHGs members. They observed that members involved in SHGs programme have increased involvement in decision making, awareness about various programmes and organisations. Moreover, the members get information about the different sources of credit and also reported that there are evidences of household income, food security and increased standard of living.

Roy (2007) undertaken quality assessment of SHGs in West Bengal and this was done by using twenty indicators like group meeting, members" participation, group discipline, savings, micro-credit, financial management, economic and social initiatives and linkages with institutions. Factor analysis was done based on twelve indicators like cohesion in the group, initiative of the NGO, facilitation by PRI institutions, support of the bank, assistance of the line department, own initiative, livelihood opportunity, skill, infrastructure and market.

A self-help group (SHG) is a village-based financial intermediary committee usually composed of 10–20 local women or men. A mixed group is generally not preferred. Most self-help groups are located in India, though SHGs can be found in other countries, especially in South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Members make small regular savings contributions over a few months until there is enough capital in the group to begin lending. Funds may then be lent back to the members or to others in the village for any purpose. In India, many SHGs are 'linked' to banks for the delivery of micro-credit.

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A self-help group may be registered or unregistered. It typically comprises a group of micro entrepreneurs having homogeneous social and economic backgrounds, all voluntarily coming together to save regular small sums of money, mutually agreeing to contribute to a common fund and to meet their emergency needs on the basis of mutual help. They pool their resources to become financially stable, taking loans from the money collected by that group and by making everybody in that group self-employed. The group members use collective wisdom and peer pressure to ensure proper end-use of credit and timely repayment. This system eliminates the need for collateral and is closely related to that of solidarity lending, widely used by micro finance institutions. To make the bookkeeping simple, flat interest rates are used for most loan calculations.

Guidelines for supporting NGO-MFIs as Self Help Promoting Institutions:

[Letter Ref. No. NB.MCID/ 1839-1873/NGO-MFI (Policy)/201s-16]

1. The scheme will be implemented in priority states where there is dearth of good NGOSHPIs.

2. The Eligibility criteria for selection of NGO-MFI will be same as applicable to NGO- SHPIS.

3. NGO-MFIs with good ground level understanding of SHG concept, working with rural poor, good outreach and rapport with banks to be identified.

4. Past partners, SHPIs which had availed our RFA / Capital Support assistance with a good track record and now functioning as NGO-MFIs to be given preference.

5. Only those NGO-MFIs who qualify for grant support as per the Institutional Appraisal of ROs would be eligible.

6. The NGO-MFI are expected to play the role of a facilitator in promotion and nurturing of SHGs for credit linkage with banks. In other words the savings account and the loan account of the SHG will be held in the books of the bank.

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7. Grant support up to Rs.5,000/- per SHG may be considered.

8. The period of assistance will be upto 4 years with provision for extension as per the extant guidelines.

9. It is expected that NGOs-MFIs would also be functioning as BC of a bank and therefore our support has been confined primarily to take care of pre-credit linkage expenditure and audit of SHG books. The post credit linkage support handholding/ nurturing of SHGs is expected to be met out of the BC fee being received by them.

10. Efforts should be made, to bring down the rates of interest, inclusive of the BC fee, charged by banks to SHGs promoted under our project.

11. Expenditure incurred in this regard would be booked under "Expenditure from FIF A/c".

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6) Research Gap

As per the previous section there are many people who are working on the topic related to the micro finance and women empowerment and the topic "micro finance" is not new to the current scenario, the researcher is concentrating on the Rajasthan and more specifically to the Ajmer district where many self-help groups and NGOs are working together to elevate women's and fighting to eradicate poverty from their lives. Since the topic is not new and the researcher is benefitted from the earlier work done by many qualified researchers and the pioneer in this field **Dr. Mohammed Yunus** work is very well known to the world in this direction.

Micro Finance due to its potential merits of timely supply of financial services and flexibility of products can provide a necessary boost to potential sectors such as agriculture, micro-enterprises, animal husbandry, wool and mutton processing, tourism etc. In addition to harnessing potential sectors of development, microfinance may play a vital role in reaching out to the vulnerable segments of the society like Women, SC and ST, which are outside the purview of formal financial institutions. The agencies operating under the Microfinance Sector can be basically grouped in two classes namely- the SHG-Bank Linkage Programme (SLBP) which is a saving led model and the Microfinance institution, which is a credit, led model and includes NBFC-MFIs, trusts, societies etc., whereof NBFC-MFIs hold more than 80% of the outstanding loan portfolio. The impact studies have proved that the community based approach of microfinance and livelihood has high positive impact whereas the MFI model has not impacted poverty to that extent.

In an effort for the marketing of WSHGs products in the State, a Society named **Amrita** has been registered under Rajasthan Registration Society Act through which WSHGs products would be sold under Amrita Brand. Apart from this

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Amrita Society is expeeted to play a major role in promotion of marketing linkages, skill up gradation, value addition, design diversification and packaging of WSHG's products.

The researcher is concentrating upon the area of Ajmer district where people has done work and some of the work is done but there is a time lag. As the time passes there are more and more supportive hands coming up to make the situation better making the untapped market into an organized sector for products and services e.g. **"Amrita Society"**. The researcher wants to know the latest status of the people who are already joined such groups and how much they are benefitted from it and more specific the underprivileged section "the women". In Rajasthan the position of women is very poor in terms of position in the family, male dominance, religion factor etc. are there. In spite of all the odds, today women are fighting for their livelihood and supporting their family by making various articles like pickle, cotton thread, terracotta art, blue pottery etc. there is a gap of time and the locale of the study in comparison to the studies done earlier. Along with this there is a positive change in the government policies which also supports these kind of functions. The researchers thinks that it is the right time to analyse the outcome of the efforts done by the Government, NGOs and old and newly formed SHG in the direction of micro finance, women empowerment of Rajasthan with special case of Ajmer district this will lead us to know the opportunity, weakness, strengths and threats and give remedial measures for improving weakness and marinating the strengths of the programmes.

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7) Major Hypothesis

The major hypothesis in this research work is the combination of different important factor which are going to be studied in the research work. NABARD and SHG are helping the members of the group in providing financial support and other things. The researcher is going to touch all the aspects of area of improvement where there is a significant change is observed after and before joining the membership. There are two kind of hypothesis one is NULL and other one is Alternative, we test our collected data on stasticial software on certain condition of acceptance and after getting the result and compare it with the acceptability range, if it falls in acceptance region the researcher is going to accept it otherwise the alternative hypothesis is proved.

The researcher has divided the hypothesis into the following sub- heads for better understanding the situation of members benefited after joining the membership of SHG and NABARD association. The hypothesis is the testing of the statement 'whether the researcher is getting the respondent's answer into right direction or whether the direction of the research is in the right direction or not. Following division of the hypothesis is to minimize the type I and type II errors.

Hypothesis No. A: Income generation

H_0A: There is no significant difference in monthly income generated before and after SHG membership.

HA_1: There is a significant difference in monthly income generated before and after SHG membership.

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Hypothesis No. B: Monthly Budget.

H_0B: There is no significant difference in Monthly budget before and after SHG membership.

HB_1: There is a significant difference in Monthly budget before and after SHG membership.

Hypothesis No. C: Food and Eating Habits.

H_0C: There is no significant difference in Food and Eating Habits before and after SHG membership.

HC_1: There is a significant difference in Food and Eating Habits before and after SHG membership.

Hypothesis No. D: Improvement in Health & Hygiene Factors

H_0 D: There is no significant difference in Improvement in Health & Hygiene Factors before and after SHG membership.

HD_1: There is a significant difference in Improvement in Health & Hygiene Factors before and after SHG membership.

Hypothesis No. E: Land Purchasing and Housing

H_0 E: There is no significant difference in Land Purchasing and Housing before and after SHG membership.

HE_1: There is a significant difference in Land Purchasing and Housing before and after SHG membership.

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8) Research Methodology and Design

This part deals with the research methods and techniques used in conducting the present study which is designed to understand and analyze the role of NABARD in poverty alleviation, women empowerment through micro finance and SHG.

There are different methods that are used in research for data collection and analysis. The selection of method for research purposes is very important for accurate result. These methods help in collecting necessary information. The researcher is going to use the information and empirical data from the already known facts to develop hypothesis which could be tested.

Millward (2001) mentioned that there are different methods for data collection. Whilst selecting any method for data collection, researcher always considers the advantages and disadvantages of that method. She decides which method is most effective for gathering effective data and information for analysis. Empirical data is the main part on which whole research is based. This makes it obvious that correct data collection method has significant importance.

There are two methods that are commonly used in research work. These are qualitative and quantitative. According to **Strauss & Corbin (2008)** in qualitative research method there is no use of statistical procedures. It also does not require any other method of getting quantities. This method is used incase researcher needed a detailed amount of information in text form. Through qualitative methods, a large quantity of data is collected from reliable resources. It is then extracted in most effective and optimal form with an appropriate selection criterion. According to **Morse (1994)**, there are advantages and disadvantages associated with qualitative method of data collection. It provides ease to the researcher and respondent for preparing and answering the questions. But at the same time by using this method researcher gets a large amount of irrelevant data. It makes difficult for researcher to get only the useful data. One of the important

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aspects of qualitative method is that it covers the behavior and values of the respondent. **The researcher is going to use qualitative method in this research. As per the research objectives, the researcher is conducting research on micro finance, SHG to observe its impact on the empowerment of women.** The researcher found subjectively how micro finance contributed in empowering women. For this purpose the researcher interviewed borrowers and the bank personnel to extract relative information which was helpful in whole discussion.

Survey is the optimal technique to extract the information among a particular community related to the woman empowerment but the approach has to be quite convincing because layman has not kept enough idea about entrepreneurship related to woman empowerment in banking sector.

In order to be familiar with the research work already been done in the relevant field the researcher also consulted the secondary data. It will help researcher in making research problems and questions more relevant. It will also provide the frame work for research thesis at later stage. For this purposes the researcher is going to consult Maharashi Dayanand University, Ajmer Library, different research articles, intensive literature research, website of all the related department and the Internet.

It is furnished under the following heads.

1. Locale of the study.
2. Nature and source of data.
3. Sampling procedure.
4. Data collection time and length of service.
5. Tools and techniques used in collection of data.
6. Statistical analysis.

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Locale of the Study:

The District of Ajmer, of the State of Rajasthan, is chosen as the locale of study. Ajmer district is one of the pioneering districts in the micro finance movement of the Rajasthan state. **The Ajmer district comprises, Kishangarh, Beawar, Kekri, Sarwad, Srinagar and other surrounding villages**. There are many villagers and micro entrepreneurs working and earning their bread for living and there are many SHGs to support them. The researcher is belonging to the same region, Ajmer and being local from the town it is very helpful in doing research, like understanding the local language and translating into the response for the desired question.

Nature and Source of Data:

The data pertaining to various aspects under study will be collected from both primary and secondary sources. The secondary data will be collected to study the performance of NABARD in helping women empowerment, poverty alleviation and other important aspects through SHGs which covers a period of last 5 years. The secondary data is collected from various reports and journals published by NABARD, Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Rajasthan. However for the purpose of analyzing the impact of SHG, micro finance, the SHG Bank Linkage Programme on poverty alleviation, women empowerment in the district of Ajmer the data will be collected from primary source with the help of an interview schedule.

Sampling Procedure:

Keeping in view of the objectives of the study, the procedure adopted for the selection of the SHG members for analysis is narrated below: At the very outset, directories and data of SHGs will be collected from the office of the Ministry of Rural Development (DRDA Ajmer) Rajasthan and other supportive agencies of Ajmer district and surrounding rural areas from which the total number of SHGs formed in the districts is determined.

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In the second stage, the sample size of the number of SHG members is ascertained considering the population size to be unknown (since a particular SHG consists of 15 to 20 members), after considering 95% confidence level and confidence interval at 5 using online sample size calculator. It is used to determine how many people you need to interview in order to get results that reflect the target population as precisely as needed.Thus, the sample size to be selected SHG members.

In the thirds stage, six blocks will be selected randomly out of the available blocks of the district. In the fourth stage, the number of SHG members to be considered from each block is ascertained proportionately taking into consideration total sample size of SHG members and number of SHGs of the six blocks selected for the study. Generally four members from each SHG are taken for the analysis. Those SHGs which are easily accessible and the member of which shows a positive attitude in responding are selected by judgment for the interview.

Data Collection Time and Length of Service:

The primary data will be collected during the year at different locations surrounding Ajmer district. Regarding the length of service of SHGs, only the members of those SHGs which have completed more than 3 years and above will be taken for the study since performance can better be analysed if the length of service is more. However in some cases SHGs with less than 3 years are also taken but have completed a minimum period of 1 year.

Tools and Techniques Used in Collection of Data:

The tools and techniques used for data collection and analysing of the same are described as: Data will be collected by the researcher herself with the structured interview schedule developed for the study. The interview schedule is constructed for the SHG members so as to collect information in line with the objectives of the study. As the target respondents are mostly illiterate or semi-literate this tool is best suitable for conducting the research.

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Before starting an interview, the researcher will introduced herself and explained the purpose behind for holding the interview to the respondent. During the course of interview, questions will be asked serially the respondents. Whenever necessary, questions will be explained to them to ensure proper understanding, and being local from Ajmer the researcher has advantage of local language too. This helps in getting appropriate responses. Each completed interview schedule will be examined immediately after the closure of an interview for its completion in all respects, in case the respondent is not able to explain at the time of asking question or some of the questions is skipped in the flow.

Statistical Analysis:

The collected primary data will be statistically processed, classified and tabulated by using appropriate methods. Simple analytical tools like frequency, percentages, mean can be used for analysis. For applying such statistical tools MS Excel and SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Science) software programs can be used. The null hypothesis is framed for each parameter separately and will be tested. Another statistical tool named, Chi-square, it is a statistical method assessing the goodness of fit between observed values and those expected theoretically can also be used to know the people before and after associating the programme.

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Certificate

This is certify that Mr./ Ms./ Mrs. **Sumita gurnani** S/O or D/O **Mr. Rewa chand gurnani** has qualified the course work of Paper II and Paper III for Registration of Ph. D. Programme in the Department of Commerce (E.A.F.M) M.D.S.University Ajmer on 30/05/16 (Date / Month / Year)

Signature of the Supervisor.

27/11/16

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